

in spec? ~~a speed change lever shaft for operating said positioning plate, said speed change lever shaft being supported in said housing and extending therethrough;~~

a hydraulic motor fed with hydraulic fluid from said hydraulic pump for driving said axles:

a center section provided therewithin with a pair of fluid passages, wherein said center section is enclosed in said housing and said hydraulic pump and said hydraulic motor are mounted onto said center section so as to be fluidly connected with each other through said pair of fluid passages within said center section, and

a short circuit valve interposed between said pair of fluid passages, wherein said short circuit valve is provided within a portion of said center section in the vicinity of said positioning plate so that an utmost end of said valve projects from said center section to the interior of said housing in parallel to said speed change lever shaft.

9. An axle driving apparatus as set forth in claim 8, wherein the operational direction of said short circuit valve is the same with that of said speed change lever shaft.

10. An axle driving apparatus as set forth in claim 8, further comprising:

a speed reduction mechanism and a differential system interposed between said hydraulic motor and said axle, said speed reduction mechanism and said differential system being enclosed in said housing.

11. An axle driving apparatus as set forth in claim 10, wherein said housing is vertically divided into two parts.